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5 October 1965

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

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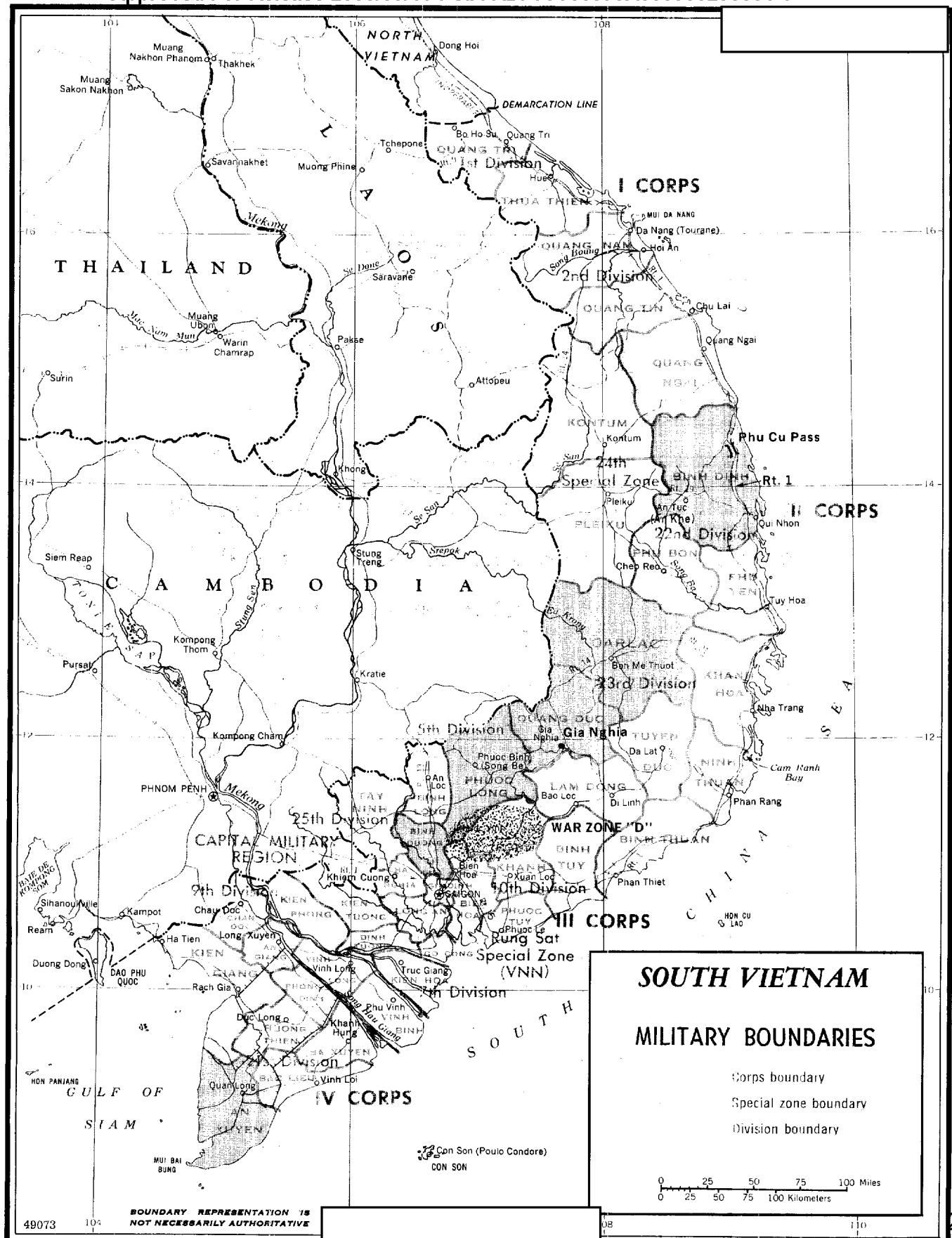
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5 Oct 65 CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN Map

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*Vietnam: (Information as of 4:30 AM EDT)

Military Situation in South Vietnam: Vietnamese army units and Viet Cong forces on 3 October clashed for the third time in less than two weeks in the Phu Cu Pass area of Binh Dinh Province.

Communist troops, using mortars, automatic weapons, and small arms, reportedly pinned down two government battalions engaged in bridge repairs along Route 1 for more than seven hours, and inflicted casualties of 55 killed (1 US) and 64 wounded. Enemy losses were unknown. Government relief forces and close air support subsequently directed to the battle area failed to establish contact with the Viet Cong.

A Communist unit estimated at battalion strength early yesterday attacked and overran a hamlet outpost near Gia Nghia, the capital of Quang Duc Province. Details of the attack are not yet available, although a government infantry battalion is being airlifted to Gia Nghia from the neighboring Darlac Province. Further north, 13 US Marines were killed and 23 wounded on 3 October when their patrol was attacked near Da Nang by an estimated two Viet Cong companies. US officials report 16 Viet Cong killed, and an additional 20 may have been killed during the engagement.

On the government side, two Vietnamese battalions established contact with an unknown number of Viet Cong early yesterday during the initial phase of a search and destroy operation in An Xuyen Province. Additional government units were transported to the area, although late reports indicate that contact with the Viet Cong has been at least temporarily broken.

(continued)

Elsewhere, US army units conducting a sweep operation in the enemy War Zone "D" stronghold north of Saigon yesterday killed eight Viet Cong and wounded one other. US casualties totaled four wounded. Another operation initiated yesterday by a US army brigade in the Binh Duong-Phuoc Long Province border area is proceeding on schedule, although no enemy contact has been reported.

Political Situation in South Vietnam: The US consul in Hué has reported that the political situation in I Corps remains unsettled with the prospect of further deterioration, despite recently improved military and economic conditions. The focus of political trouble--partly inspired by Buddhist leaders in Hué--is Quang Tri Province, where increasing criticism has been directed towards the current province chief. The consulate expects further, non-violent Buddhist pressure for his removal and also suggests that the Viet Cong may continue to inspire small scale demonstrations against the war effort in the three southern provinces of I Corps.

The first published attack on I Corps Commander General Thi, who at present is reportedly accompanying Premier Ky on an official three-day visit to Malaysia, appeared in the second issue of a new "student struggle" newspaper in Hué. The paper's criticism was evidently prompted by Thi's recent public warning against further student disorders, and may foreshadow a growing anti-Thi campaign even though the student group responsible does not seem to have a large following thus far. The paper was also sharply critical of US policies and the harmful side effects of the US force build-up in South Vietnam.

(Map)

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***India-Pakistan:** (Information as of 4:30 AM EDT)

The India-Pakistan border remains quiet although each country continues to charge the other with cease-fire violations and atrocities.

The "heavy fighting" reported by Radio Karachi last Friday and Saturday in southern Kashmir has been described by UN observers as an exchange of artillery fire which resulted in no change in troop positions. The Pakistani press, however, continues to report that Pakistani troops inflicted heavy casualties on the Indian forces in the engagement.

New Delhi claimed on 4 October that "infiltrators" burned five villages in Kashmir and stated that 15 guerrillas were killed. The clandestine "Voice of Kashmir," meanwhile, has accused India of engaging in new "waves of repression" against the Muslim residents of the disputed territory.

A Defense Ministry spokesman in New Delhi has charged that Chinese troops intruded into Indian territory in Sikkim on Saturday but withdrew after about 10 hours. According to this spokesman, a brief exchange of fire occurred before the withdrawal.

While Sino-Indian relations remain fragile, Sino-Pakistani relations continue cordial. At a banquet in Peking yesterday, given by a visiting Pakistani friendship delegation, Chinese Vice Premier Po I-po declared that the friendship between the two countries "can stand all tests." He pledged that China "will exert every possible effort to give necessary aid to the Pakistani people."

Anti-American sentiment may be increasing in India. Defense Minister Chavan told a rally of 60,000 people that the US and UK have been partners of Pakistan, and that because of this "strange alignment" there can be no substitute for Indian self-reliance. On Sunday, Congress Party leader Kamaraj said that "any country that extends aid to Pakistan is an enemy of India."

***Indonesia: (Information as of 4:30 AM EDT)**

Sukarno and the army may be headed for a show-down over the issue of the future of Communism in Indonesia.

Army leaders are reportedly outraged by the killing of six top generals by members of the pro-Communist "30 September Movement" and resent Sukarno's continuing refusal to sanction a crackdown on the Indonesian Communist Party (PKI). There is also considerable suspicion in Indonesian official circles that Sukarno was personally involved in the plot.

[redacted] army leaders now view Sukarno as the planner of the "coup." The army, however, is at a disadvantage in attempting to outmaneuver Sukarno following the loss of most of its "brain trust." [redacted] at a high-level conference on 4 October the strongly anti-Communist commander of West Java's crack Siliwangi Division, Major General Adjie, demanded government action to dissolve the PKI before 7 October. He also threatened to do the job himself if the government temporized further.]

The PKI, for its part, appears to be going underground. There are, however, reports of active armed Communist bands in central Java and some low-level PKI political activity in Medan, Surabaja, and other areas. Remnants of the coup group's regular military forces may also be active in central Java. They appear to be relatively few in number and confined to the central-east Java border region. The greater danger at this time appears to be from Communist irregulars armed last week by air force sympathizers.

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